

“(11) TERRITORY.—The term ‘territory’ means—

- “(A) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- “(B) the United States Virgin Islands;
- “(C) Guam;
- “(D) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or
- “(E) American Samoa.”.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 601(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801(d)(3)) is amended by inserting “(or, in the case of costs incurred by a Tribal government, during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 31, 2022)” before the period.

SEC. 5. RESCISSION OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUNDS DECLINED BY STATES, TERRITORIES, OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 606. RESCISSION OF FUNDS DECLINED BY STATES, TERRITORIES, OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

“(a) RESCISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), if a State, territory, or other governmental entity provides notice to the Secretary of the Treasury in the manner provided by the Secretary of the Treasury that the State, territory, or other governmental entity intends to decline all or a portion of the amounts that are to be awarded to the State, territory, or other governmental entity from funds appropriated under this title, an amount equal to the unaccepted amounts or portion of such amounts allocated by the Secretary of the Treasury as of the date of such notice that would have been awarded to the State, territory, or other governmental entity shall be rescinded from the applicable appropriation account.

“(2) EXCLUSION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to funds that are to be paid to a State under section 603 for distribution to nonentitlement units of local government.

“(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as—

“(A) preventing a sub-State governmental entity, including a nonentitlement unit of local government, from notifying the Secretary of the Treasury that the sub-State governmental entity intends to decline all or a portion of the amounts that a State may distribute to the entity from funds appropriated under this title; or

“(B) allowing a State to prohibit or otherwise prevent a sub-State governmental entity from providing such a notice.

“(b) USE FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Amounts rescinded under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury for the sole purpose of deficit reduction.

“(c) STATE OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘State, territory, or other governmental entity’ means any entity to which a payment may be made directly to the entity under this title other than a Tribal government, as defined in sections 601(g), 602(g), and 604(d), and an eligible Tribal government, as defined in section 605(f).”.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME, EN BLOC—S. 3005, S. 3006, S. 3007, S. 3008, S. 3009, AND S. 3010

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there are 6 bills at the desk, and I ask for their reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3005) establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3006) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2022 through 2031.

A bill (S. 3007) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits.

A bill (S. 3008) to establish the Federal Rainy Day Fund to control emergency spending.

A bill (S. 3009) to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

A bill (S. 3010) to cap noninterest Federal spending as a percentage of potential GDP to right-size the Government, grow the economy, and balance the budget.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time, en bloc, on the next legislative day.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2021**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Wednesday, October 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lhamon nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Lhamon nomination, all postcloture time expire at 1:45 p.m., and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of Senators, the first rollcall vote of the day will begin at approximately 11 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators KING and PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. KING. Madam President, the United States of America is an anomaly in world history. We are a 245-year experiment in self-government, which is based upon an idea that was radical in 1776. It was tested at Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, and the Wilderness. It was defended at Anzio, Iwo Jima, and Normandy, and was reaffirmed in 1965. It is an idea that the people—all the people—are the ultimate source of power and can govern themselves through their elected representatives. That was a radical notion in 1776.

The historical norm is just the opposite—kings; pharaohs; dictators; czars; warlords; emperors; and, more recently, presidents for life. Throughout most of human history, and right up to the present day, in most countries, the people have little or no say in the decisions that determine their fate. And these rulers are rarely, if ever, beneficent. In fact, again, the historical norm is just the opposite—pervasive corruption, the pursuit of power for its own sake, the crushing of dissent, sham elections, and the abuse or even elimination of anyone not sufficiently loyal or useful to the leader. That is the historical norm.

There is nothing surprising about this because it reflects human nature. History fairly shouts at us that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Given the consistent history of this experience—of warlords, dictators, czars, and the abuse of their authority—it is clear that what we are doing, this experiment, is fragile. It is not the norm. It is an anomaly. What we have and take for granted is in no way guaranteed. As has been the case for democratic experiments throughout history, it can fail. Rarely can it fail from external attack. Almost always, democratic experiments fail from erosion from within.

On the surface, our democratic system protects us by resting upon our ingenuous Constitution, the primary purpose of which is to establish an effective government while at the same time dividing and dispersing power, and in Madison's evocative phrase: Obliging the government to control itself.

And of all the safeguards built into the Constitution—and there are many; two Houses of Congress, vetoes, division of the war power, advise and consent, enumerated powers, Federalism, the Bill of Rights—of all of those protections, the most fundamental and essential is regular elections, the clearest expression of the people's will.

For most of my life, I have not really thought much about how elections actually work. You go to the town office or the school gym, they cross your name off on a list, hand you a ballot, and you go into a booth and make your